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A WEEKLY REVIEW OF LITERATURE, SCIENCE, AND ART.

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[New Issue.]

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LITERATURE.

The Father of the Forest, and Other Poems. By William Watson. (John Lane.)

"Not much of it, but all gold." This, or something like this, was the rapid verdict of a newspaper critic on Mr. Watson's slim book, on the morrow of its publication. Another newspaper critic, less rapid if not less appreciative, complains of the thinness of the volume. His dissatisfaction implies, either that Mr. Watson should have written more, or that he should have withheld what he had written until he had other poems ready to add to it. In accepting as fairly just the appraisal of the first critic, one can give no weight to the objection of the second, for the character of Mr. Watson's genius requires that quantity should be subordinated to quality. If he had been content to beat out his gold very thin—as the practice of some is—he might have given us a much greater bulk. But the labour that must have gone to that operation he preferred to spend in the enrichment of his gold, and the result is that these poems possess a value of which mere length could afford no criterion.

Mr. Watson's previous books have established so high a standard that he satisfies a severe test if he is equal to himself. That he is so in three, at all events, of the four most important of these few poems, no competent reader will doubt. The title-poem is not the best in the book; but its stateliness of phrase and the fine series of historic pictures which it presents have all the striking quality of Mr. Watson's genius. There is nothing new, of course, in the association of an old tree with the events of the centuries it has witnessed. There is seldom anything new in a poet's material. It is his transmutation of the material into a new form, in which it lives more vividly than it ever lived before, that shows the poet and makes the poem. Here is what seems to me to be a perfect example of such a transmutation:

"Mourned not the rumouring winds, when she,
The sweet queen of a tragic hour,
Crowned with her snow-white memory
The crimson legend of the Tower?
Or when a thousand witcheries lay
Felled with one stroke, at Fotheringay?"

The story of the fate of Lady Jane Grey, of the graces and goodness of her nature, and of the unlovely times that made so dark a background to so blameless a character, was surely never more perfectly told; though it is all told within the space of four lines. No painter's brush could have produced anything like such an effect. Nor could a painter's brush have suggested the

sighs of mourning which the winds carried to the far woods, to be echoed there. And how admirably, too, all the charms and graces and fascinations of Mary, Queen of Scots, are conveyed in the "thousand witcheries" which had their tragic end at Fotheringay—these, and the tragedy also.

The second part of the poem, in which the poet's answering thought gives audible voice to the old yew, is, perhaps, finer than the first part. Here we have the peace that abides when the pageants of the years have gone by. "To me more sweet," says the ancient yew,

"to me more sweet
The vigils of Eternity,
And Silence patient at my feet."

It has been dimly conscious of the coming and going of men, but better than the ripple of their movement was the profound calm which lay at the heart of things:

"Often an air comes idling by
With news of cities and of men:
I hear a multitudinous sigh,
And lapse into my soul again.
Shall her great noons and sunsets be
Blurred with thine infelicity?"

The many-wintered yew has no sceptical misgivings. Who should so well know that Nature will not intermit her times and seasons, her glories of night and morning?

"The South shall bless, the East shall blight,
The red rose of the Dawn shall blow;
The million-litiled stream of Night,
Wide in ethereal meadows flow;

and Earth—the yew or the poet tells us—

"... wise from all the foolish Past,
Shall peradventure hail at last
"The advent of that morn divine
When nations may as forests grow,
Wherein the oak hates not the pine,
Nor beeches wish the cedars woe,
But all, in their unlikeness, blend
Confederate to one golden end."

The "Hymn to the Sea," which follows the title-poem, is undoubtedly the best piece of work in the volume. It is a great poem, equal to anything that Mr. Watson has written, and comparable to any like achievement in the language by whomsoever produced. Mr. Watson, indeed, has succeeded where other masters of song have failed, and his hexameters and pentameters are perhaps the best examples of Ovidian elegiacs in English. But the excellence of the poem in point of construction, great though it is, calls for less notice than its intrinsic excellence claims. The majesty of the sea is sung here in majestic numbers: its moods, its humours, its grandeur, its playfulness are reflected in noble verse that takes its music, as it takes its imagery, from the ocean it celebrates. Nor only this; for the secret of the sea, its meaning for the spirit of man, is caught and expanded by the poet, and we realise that the mighty element which spans the world has its living counterpart in the race for which the world exists. My difficulty is the choice of extracts, for it is due both to the poet and to the possible reader that one should indicate by example as well as by criticism the quality of such a poem. I should like to quote the very striking prelude, which ends with the lovely pentameter:

"Youth, irrepressibly fair, wakes like a wondering rose."

But perhaps a larger purpose will be served by extracting some of the lines in which a parallel is drawn between the great sea, with its limitations, and the spirit of man, with the bounds beyond which he cannot go:

"Sea that breakest for ever, that breakest and never art broken,
Like unto thine, from of old, springeth the spirit of man—

Man that is galled with his confines, and burdened yet more with his vastness,
Bora too great for his ends, never at peace with his goal;
Man whom Fate, his victor, magnanimous, clement in triumph,
Holds as a captive king, mewed in a palace divine:

Wide its leagues of pleasure, and ample of purview its windows;
Airlily falls, in its courts, laughter of fountains at play;

Nought, when the harpers are harping, untimely reminds him of durance;
None, as he sits at the feast, whisper Captivity's name;

But, would he parley with Silence, withdraw for awhile unattended,
Forth to the beckoning world 'scape for an hour and be free,

Lo, his adventurous fancy coercing at once and provoking,
Rise the unscalable walls, built with a word at the prime;

Lo, immobile as statues, with pitiless faces of iron,
Armed at each obstinate gate, stand the impassable guards."

It would be superfluous, if not impertinent, to breathe a word of commendation in regard to such verse as this. Its perfect fitness, its stateliness of thought and dignity of language, are unmistakable. It is another example of that "large utterance of the early gods" of which—and in the manner of which—Keats wrote. The "Hymn to the Sea" concludes with a tribute to the sea's constancy. That is a virtue which, at the first thought, one would not ascribe to so capricious a power. But there is a constancy of law that underlies caprices of mood; and whether the temper of the hour be gentle or passionate, the sea flows and ebbs with unerring regularity. In its allegiance, in its obedience, it is more constant than man. Hence the sea, like a priestess, in the poet's conception, is permitted to assist at the apotheosis of man:

"Wherefore, with leapings of spirit, thou chantest the chant of the faithful,
Chantest aloud at thy toll, cleansing the Earth of her stain;
Leagued in antiphonal chorus with stars and the populous Systems,
Following these as their feet dance to the rhyme of the Suns;
Thou thyself but a billow, a ripple, a drop of that Ocean,
Which, labyrinthine of arm, folding us meshed in its coil,
Shall, as now, with elations, august exultations and ardours,
Pour, in unfaltering tide, all its unanimous waves,
When, from this threshold of being, these steps of the Presence, this precinct,
Into the matrix of Life darkly divinely resumed,
Man and his littleness perish, erased like an error and cancelled,
Man and his greatness survive, lost in the greatness of God."

The remaining contents of the volume comprise two other considerable poems and

five short ones. Of the latter it is enough to say that they are marked by Mr. Watson's delicate taste and marvellous skill in the choice of epithet and construction of line. In one instance only have I noticed a defect. It occurs in the sonnet headed "The Turk in Armenia," where the sea is referred to as "the subject blue," which is surely a weak and scarcely accurate description. Of the two longer poems I confess that I prefer "The Tomb of Burns" to the "Apologia." Indeed, I have some misgiving about the good taste of the last-mentioned poem. "The Tomb of Burns" obviously challenges a comparison with Wordsworth's poem on the same subject; but it may be said, without disrespect to the great name of Wordsworth, that the later poet carries off the palm. While neither Wordsworth nor Mr. Watson reproduces Burns's stanza in the fashion in which he used it, Mr. Watson puts into it a terseness and adequacy of expression that would be remarkable in any living poet except himself. How well, for instance, Burns's attitude to his time is suggested in four lines, while two more convey the lamentable outcome of it:

"Singly he faced the bigot brood,
The meanly wise, the feebly good;
He pelted them with pearl, with mud;
He fought them well—
But ah, the stupid million stood,
And he—he fell!"

Another single stanza rebukes the people who would draw a moral from such a fate, and exalts the greatness that survived it:

"Not ours to gauge the more or less,
The will's defect, the blood's excess,
The earthy humours that oppress
The radiant mind.
His greatness, not his littleness,
Concerns mankind."

In his "Apologia" Mr. Watson expostulates with some of his critics. They have found, or think they have, certain shortcomings in his work; and he takes occasion to discuss their strictures with them. There is an inevitable loss of dignity in such a proceeding, and one cannot see what is to be gained by it. If the disparaging critics are right, no amount of expostulation or argument will alter the fact; and if they are wrong, no argument or expostulation can be necessary. The opening lines of the "Apologia" show how entirely Mr. Watson is sensible of this:

"Thus much I know: what does soe'er be mine,
Of fame or of oblivion, Time the just,
Punctiliously assessing, shall award."

Then why interrupt the process of time by this needless and self-irritating reply to critics? The poem does not lack dignity, even though it is itself a departure from the dignified attitude which such a poet as Mr. Watson should maintain. There are fine lines in it; and the vindication, at the end, of art that breathes "an ardour not of Eros' lips" is timely, fitting, and admirable. But as a whole it is inferior to Mr. Watson's more characteristic work. There is too much elaboration in it, too much repetition of the same thought, with a consequent tendency to verbiage. This is a defect attributable to the matter of the thing, and not to the genius of the poet, who has

shown in such poems as "Vita Nuova" that he can write blank verse of exceptional strength and beauty.

GEORGE COTTERELL.

A Lecture on the Study of History. Delivered at Cambridge June 11, 1895, by Lord Acton, Regius Professor of Modern History. (Macmillans.)

In this little volume of 142 pages, whereof half are closely packed notes, Lord Acton has not followed the example of his immediate predecessor, Sir John Seeley, whose inaugural lecture, "On the Teaching of Politics," was a systematic discussion of one question. The topics discussed in the text by Lord Acton, and, in the notes, by his overwhelming list of quoted authorities, are very numerous; but, of course, are all relevant and all interesting.

After a brief glance at the old battle, which, from Arnold to Freeman, has been so often renewed, touching the unity of history, comes an eloquent passage, one of the best in the book, on the "modern age" and its distinctive characteristics. Against Freeman and that Oxford historical school, which regards modern history as a comparatively inferior subject for study, Lord Acton defends recent periods. Here he is true to the best traditions of the Cambridge school—the school of Smyth, of Stephen, and of Seeley. Indeed, this apology for recent periods, a "narrative told of ourselves" (p. 19) would have gladdened the heart of Lord Acton's immediate predecessor.

This is followed by some controversial matter of another, if not a higher, mood. Undeterred by the present admitted "superiority of politics over divinity" or by that secularisation of modern politics which has been so steadily growing ever since the Peace of Westphalia, Lord Acton insists on the importance of Church history. Not content that we should deem modern progress, in the direction of organised and assured freedom, the "characteristic fact of modern history," he would have us regard it as the "tribute" of modern history "to the theory of Providence." This is a hard saying, and the professor frankly admits that the masters of many schools—Ranke, Comte, Carlyle, Newman, and others—differ from him. But Lord Acton, as might perhaps have been expected, is much influenced by the ecclesiastical view of history. Of course he would not commend that economy of truth practised by Eusebius, but he must have a sympathy with the objects of Augustine's *City of God*. In spite of the moral stumbling-blocks which Renan, and so many before him, have found in history, Lord Acton clings to "Providence," and proceeds, with Leibnitz, to maintain stoutly that "history is the true demonstration of religion."

For these opinions the professor would hardly claim the benefit of his quotation from Fustel de Coulanges, "Ce n'est pas moi qui vous parle, c'est l'histoire qui parle par ma bouche." The voice is surely that of the optimistic theologian. This is, indeed, a "science which is not identical with ours." It seems to disclose those "private convic-

tions" which, as the lecturer reminds us, Ranke resolved to keep out of his writings. It is true that no man whose idea of history rises above the level of *Anna* can be without his opinions on such high themes. But they are best discussed on "a hill retired," where, as of old, the reasoner may find no end, in wandering mazes lost. Those who sit at the feet of the professor asking for historical bread will not, I venture to think, gain much of the food they seek, unless such speculative topics are left, so far as may be, severely alone. Otherwise the past is too likely to be treated in that polemical spirit which has so often proved fatal to history. Then not Ranke's, but Hegel's, method is adopted. "Providence," indeed, reminds us too much of Kingsley, whose inaugural address contains many cheering references to "Providence," and uses the word "God" at least nineteen times. The historian with a tendency may, in truth, ultimately become like those theologians of the *Encomium Moriae*, who were able to treat a text as a nose of wax. But the work becomes a book of devotion, or, at best, of edification, and not of history. From such perils may Lord Acton yet deliver Cambridge! The chair is a chair of history, and not of philosophy. There is much for the historian to do in his own department. It is for the professors of philosophy, first having all the materials that the professors of history and natural science can provide, to justify the ways of Providence, and to decide whether history teaches conscience to be honest, or whether, as Amiel suggested, it is conscience which educates history.

Lord Acton next returns to that firmer, if lower, ground, which even from his too scanty writings he has long been known to know so well. We have now real historical matter; for we read of the "accession of the critic," of the preponderance of history, and of the new era which, with the acceptance of the law of growth and a love of historical inquiry, began with the second quarter of this century. There is, in a very interesting passage, a reminiscence and a eulogy of Ranke, with an anecdote which seems one of the best since that of the English historian who refused to meet the German who had defended the sentence against Socrates:

"When a strenuous divine—who, like him, had written on the Reformation—hailed him as a comrade, Ranke repelled his advances. 'You,' he said, 'are in the first place a Christian! I am in the first place an historian. There is a gulf between us'" (p. 50).

This shows Ranke as a passionate lover of impartiality. The other anecdote—Ranke's shock on discovering historical inaccuracy in one of Scott's novels—will, to many, suggest that Ranke, as a literary critic, was too near to the ordinary man who has not thought much on the art of fiction.

In the earlier part of his lecture Lord Acton says, "we are still at the beginning of the documentary age, which is destined to make history independent of historians"; and the lecture reverts to this necessary, this overwhelming aspect of historical work. Ranke, two generations ago, on first exploring the archives at Vienna, enthusias-

tically exclaimed, "So many unexplored sources, . . . a whole futurity of study!" But if, as most men must, we read history to live, rather than live to read history, the enthusiasm is abated, even among those who are not undergraduates. So most readers will agree with Lord Acton, who, speaking too truly of the incessant deluge of new matter, says that it now puts us in more fear of drowning than of drought. In fact, although the lecture is mercifully reticent on the point, this "deluge" threatens to make specialists or editors of us all. Like Porson, although working in other fields, the historian may have to be satisfied if known by his notes. But this can only endure for a season. Mankind will demand histories. When the deluge has done its worst, may great Gibbons of the future arise to construct a bridge for later generations between their times and the beginning of modern history!

GEORGE WHALE.

The Life of Sir Henry Hallford, Bart., M.D., &c. By William Munk, M.D., F.S.A. (Longmans.)

THE memory of Sir Henry Hallford—"the Lord Chesterfield of all medical practitioners"—is, it has been thought, prematurely dying out. So Dr. Munk has been requested by the College of Physicians (to which Sir Henry, its long-time President, was a munificent benefactor) to revive it by means of a fresh biography, more ample and authentic than any that may have preceded it.

He has certainly given us a very readable book, and one which will interest many outside the profession. For Sir Henry was a scholar, a courtier, and a country gentleman, besides being the leading, or at any rate the most fashionable, physician of his day. He had the advantage of being the son of an eminent and well-connected local physician—Dr. James Vaughan, of Leicester—who sent him to Rugby and afterwards to Christ Church, Oxford, and gave him a good start in London. This he improved by marrying a daughter of Lord St. John of Bletsoe. A year after his settlement in London he was appointed Physician Extraordinary to the King, and his professional income went up by leaps and bounds. In 1792—the year he began his practice in London—it stood at £220; in 1801 it amounted to £3214, and in 1809 to £9850. He is known to have made £12,000 a year at least once, namely, in 1824, when he received two thousand guineas for attending the King; and his private income was largely augmented on the death of Lady Denbigh in 1809, when he changed his name from Vaughan to Hallford, and was created a baronet. But he did not die a wealthy man; for he was profuse in expenditure, especially upon his country estates, and enjoyed to the utmost the pleasures of London society and intercourse with its leaders. Although his contributions to the science of medicine were few, he did good service to his patients by the pains he took to alleviate disease, and it was mainly through his

influence that the College of Physicians acquired its present advantageous site.

Dr. Munk gives, at much length, and with all its gruesome details, the narrative of what took place at the opening of the coffin of Charles I., in 1813. Within the vault of Henry VIII., at Windsor, was found a leaden coffin bearing the inscription, "King Charles, 1648," in large, legible characters. On opening it the body was discovered to be carefully wrapped in a cerecloth into which some unctuous matter mixed with resin had been melted, with a view to excluding the air. The features of the king resembled closely those which Vandyke depicted. The shape of the face was perfect. The pointed beard was there, and the left eye retained for a moment its fulness. The neck was disengaged from the body, and had evidently been severed at the fourth cervical vertebra. The identification was complete, and the last resting-place of the unhappy monarch is no longer a matter of conjecture. Sir Henry was present at the proceedings, and carried away with him a trifling relic of the dead king, which his scrupulous representative has lately returned to the Prince of Wales.

Sir Henry—like other men of education a century ago—read his Horace, and did not suffer his Latin to grow rusty. He was specially fond of verse composition, and his aptitude may be seen in his translation of Sheridan's lines—"Had I a heart for falsehood framed," &c.:

"Si violare fidem mihi cor proclivius esset,
Credere mihi me non posse nocere tibi:
Quamquam etenim tua verba fidem me nulla
rogassent,
Fecissent fidem forma decurque tum.
Ergo pone metus et fraudem parce vereri,
Nec timeas fictos in tua damna dolos:
Cunctos nempe sonas inter numerabiles amicos,
Nec juvenis, qui te non amet, ullus erit."

Any biography of Sir Henry Hallford would be incomplete which was silent of his family history. The Vaughans were really a remarkable race. Two of Sir Henry's brothers attained distinction—one as a judge and the other as a diplomatist, and a third—Peter Vaughan—became Dean of Chester and Warden of Merton College; while to the same family belong in the next generation Henry Hallford Vaughan and the Dean of Llandaff.

Dr. Munk's name is sufficient guarantee for the trustworthiness of all that he has to say, and he has shown his accustomed judgment in the use to which he has put the correspondence of Sir Henry entrusted to his care. In these days of tedious biography we are grateful to a writer who can compress his story within the limits of a single volume.

CHARLES J. ROBINSON.

NEW NOVELS.

A Question of Instinct: an Analytical Study. By Morley Roberts. (Henry.)

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Sir Quixote. By John Buchan. (Fisher Unwin.)

The Youth of Parnassus. By L. Pearsall Smith. (Macmillans.)

London Idylls. By W. J. Dawson. (Hodder & Stoughton.)

The Three Impostors. By Arthur Machen. (John Lane.)

WHY Mr. Morley Roberts, who can spin a yarn better than most of his contemporaries, should prefer to write about a certain Mr. Miles, his views and experiments in polygamy, is a curious problem. Now that the unfortunate book has got itself written, I sincerely hope he will go back to his accustomed manner, and how pertinent that can be every lover of a good story knows. *A Question of Instinct* is not convincing, not even interesting. One can only hope that it will be the one and only effort of its author to create that hideous abortion, "a novel with a purpose."

What Helmuth Schwartz means by his title and why his story was written are further mysteries awaiting solution. It is a foolish book, but mercifully short; nor is its folly redeemed by good writing. The lady who composes the diary is silly, sentimental, conceited, and selfish; her companion Valeria is a hoydenish matron full of unpardonable pranks; a child nicknamed Queen of the Bats, imp-like and wonderful to behold and hear we are frequently assured, ought to have her ears boxed for an impertinent little minx. Mr. Somerby, the hero at large—the other hero is not seen, and mercifully dies of typhoid before we can make his acquaintance—talks like a conceited school-boy who has been over-rapidly promoted to the sixth form at a "forcing" school. On the whole, *An Impressionist Diary* tends to low spirits and violent language. But it holds one or two scenes so comic, one or two flashes of character-reading so undoubtedly brilliant, that its author has a future if he, or she, will bravely fling the serious part of the cargo overboard.

In the Quarter, to look at, is a mean little book, whose appearance suggests a Sunday-school prize trying to masquerade as a French novel. Better treatment was richly deserved, for the first half of the story is quite excellent. Of course the Quarter is the Latin Quarter of Paris, nor does it require much of a prophet to guess that the heroes are art students. But the characters are fresh and well drawn; their life is merrily, wittily too, described. To my mind, though I speak in a whisper and would not be overheard, it is much better than *Trilby*. The second half of the book, unfortunately, is rather commonplace: German hunters are a poor substitute for the art students, and the new heroine wins little of approval from him who has bent the knee to "La Belle Hélène." The melodramatic finish is worse than disappointing, and only very patient critics will refrain from harsher epithets. For chapters one to eleven Mr. Chambers, however modest, has a right to demand our thanks and congratulations: they are to be read and re-read. But it were worth his while, and not a difficult task for so clever a writer, to remodel the remaining ones, and so give to us a book wholly charming.

Sir Quizote has the loquacious sub-title: "Being some Account of an Episode in the Life of the Sieur de Rohaine." Experienced novel readers will therefore know what to expect. The story is briefer than most of its kind, written with spirit, and showing occasional gleams of pathos and rugged humour.

The Youth of Parnassus is amazingly well written, in a style at once graceful and distinguished. But as a collection of stories, it may cause a good deal of reasonable grumbling. Such sketches as the two called "The Will to Give" are so boldy slight and unsatisfactory that even the most lenient critic is bound to sniff at them. Mr. Pearsall Smith, luckily, will find forgiveness, as he shows a marked knowledge of certain types of character, a loving appreciation of the atmosphere of Oxford, a keen instinct for good comedy. "The Sub-Warden" is unerringly charming; the mere remembrance of his dilemma is a refreshing tonic these dull days. So admirably written a book has not appeared for a long time. Its author has it in him to write one no less fascinating as to its matter.

London Idylls appears to be Mr. Dawson's first work, and it contains much that is good and also the promise of a great deal more that shall be better. The author's style, always careful, is just now rather laborious, and his points are seldom made swiftly enough. On the whole, though his book is completely interesting, albeit too long by a third, conscientious work of this sort is not very common; and when met with, such faults as those prevalent here are readily forgiven. Perhaps the best stories, in spite of one or two others that clamour for preference, are "Jim and his Soul" and "The Music of the Gods." Both are very good indeed, yet for quite different reasons. The first is merely an idyl of the London streets, sentimental perhaps, but full of observations and provocative of tears. The other is all imagination and mystery, telling how Apollo is still on earth, and of one who met and spoke with him. It reminds me a little of Kipling's "The Greatest Story in the World"; but it has rare and unique merits of its own.

Mr. Machen has written a striking, clever, gruesome book. It owes something in its plan to Stevenson's *Dynamiter*, which is a pity; for, truth to tell, the various parts are but loosely knit together, and the author is strong enough to form a method of his own. When he follows no model, but gives his fancy and imagination free play, the result is capital. Throughout, save in a page or two, he manages to avoid being disgusting, a rare feat considering some of the descriptions he attempts; his horrors are ideally terrifying, and of a truly original habit. I do not think the most voracious novel-reader is on nodding terms with any of them. Such narratives as "The History of the Young Man with Spectacles" may cause some of us to "dream o' nights"; but there is always the ingenious and delightful Mr. Dyson lurking round the corner, ready to step in and console us. The smile and the shudder, as they should in this sort of work, jostle each other amiably

from beginning to end. I am tempted to say more, but I might reveal some of Mr. Machen's carefully hidden secrets. So I can only hope, in all gratitude, that there may be a host of readers eager to disinter them between now and Christmas.

PERCY ADDLESHAW.

NOTES AND NEWS.

MR. ANDREW LANG'S romance of the days of Joan of Arc, entitled "A Monk of Fife," which has been appearing serially in one of the magazines, will be published in volume form by Messrs. Longmans & Co. after Christmas, with the addition of illustrations and initial letters by Mr. Selwyn Image.

A NEW series of stories, studies, and sketches, by "Q," entitled *Wandering Heath*, will be published by Messrs. Cassell & Co. on December 7, and will be issued simultaneously in New York.

MESSRS. W. H. ALLEN & Co. announce for immediate publication an important work on *Why Gordon Perished*; or, the Political and Auxiliary Causes of the Soudan Disasters, by one of the war correspondents present throughout the campaign.

MESSRS. WILLIAM BLACKWOOD & SONS will publish in a few days *In Haunts of Wild Game*: a Hunter-Naturalist's Wanderings from Kahlamba to Libombo, by Mr. Frederick Vaughan Kirby, with numerous illustrations by Mr. Charles Whymper, and a map.

THE second volume of *Reminiscences of Seventy Years' Travel and Adventure*, by a Retired Officer, is announced by Mr. Elliot Stock for early publication. The subject chiefly treated is the work and organisation of the dockyards in the early part of the present century. The book also describes many scientific expeditions which have been sent out, and incidentally refers to the development of naval architecture in England.

MR. ALBERT SHAW, author of "Municipal Government in Great Britain," will publish immediately, with Mr. T. Fisher Unwin, another volume dealing in a similar manner with the large cities of the continent.

A NOVEL by Sir Walter Besant, entitled "The Master Craftsman," will begin in the part of *Chambers's Journal* published at the end of January. The arrangements for the new volume also include articles and short stories by Mrs. Oliphant, Mr. E. W. Hornung, Mr. Crockett, Mr. Christie Murray, L. T. Meade, and Mr. Franchillon. In the January part will appear a survey, by Mr. William Wallace, of the several Lives of Burns that have appeared during the past hundred years.

EARLY in the new year the Tower Publishing Company will issue a new dictionary of the biographies of living men, entitled *People of the Period*, containing about 6000 entries. It has been edited by Mr. A. T. Camden Pratt and Mr. Neville Beaman.

MR. R. F. BALL and Mr. Tresham Gilbey have for some time been engaged in the preparation of a book dealing with the history of hunting in Essex as a whole, from the earliest times of which any records exist, and with the annals of the Essex Hunt in particular. Something is said as to the origin and rise of other packs, while hare-hunting and stag-hunting are the subjects of separate chapters. The book will be published before Christmas by Messrs. Vinton & Co., of New Bridge-street, Ludgate-circus.

THE next volume in the "Westminster Gazette Library," to be issued immediately, will be the story of *The Homes and Haunts*

of Thomas Carlyle, illustrated from special portraits, photographs, and sketches.

MESSRS. DIGBY, LONG & Co., will publish immediately *Unsolved Mysteries*, by Mrs. Tweedale. At the last moment the publishers have had to change the title of the work, which was to have been "Can Such Things Be?" but that was found to have been adopted by another writer. Mrs. Tweedale is a grand-daughter of Dr. Robert Chambers, author of "Vestiges of Creation."

MESSRS. H. GREVEL & Co. will publish shortly the *Egyptian Struwwelpeter*, with vignettes from the Vienna Papyrus, respectfully dedicated to children of all ages.

A RECORD of all the old English customs which still exist is being collected for publication by the Rev. P. H. Ditchfield, rector of Barkham, Berks. Both the author and the publisher, Mr. George Redway, of Hart-street, Bloomsbury, wish it to be known that either of them will be glad to receive notes or information on the subject, in order that no local custom may be omitted.

A GERMAN translation of Mrs. Edmonds's *History of a Church Mouse*, by Fraulein Helene Lobedan, has just been published in Berlin.

THE Frances Mary Buss Memorial Fund now amounts to £1714, exclusive of the donation of the Company of Clothworkers of £210 for a memorial window. It is hoped that a further sum of £300 will be collected by Christmas, in order that the travelling studentship may be started with £2000.

THE second series of lectures under the auspices of the Sunday Lecture Society begins on Sunday next in St. George's Hall, Langham-place, at 4 p.m., when Sir Benjamin Ward Richardson will lecture on "The Fallacies of Capital Punishment." Lectures will subsequently be given by Mr. J. Churton Collins, Prof. Arthur Smithells, Prof. Vivian Lewes, Prof. Percy Frankland, Dr. Karl Leutznor, and Dr. Andrew Wilson.

MESSRS. SOTHEY will be engaged next week in selling several collections of books of a varying character. On Monday, "the library of a gentleman deceased," which would seem to have been formed in the early years of the century, when handsome quartos were still in demand. Books relating to India are especially numerous, such as Orme and Rennell, Forbes and Moor, Elphinstone and Malcolm and Tod. Next comes, on Wednesday and Thursday, the library of a very modern gentleman, who has devoted himself to acquiring first editions, large-paper copies, and limited issues of contemporary poets. There is also the longest series of the works of the Kelmscott Press that has yet come into the auction room. Finally, on Friday, the illuminated MSS. of the late Rev. J. C. Jackson, which—besides liturgical works—include a codex of Lucan written in the fifteenth century.

UNIVERSITY JOTTINGS.

MR. W. J. COURTHOPE, of New College, has been elected without opposition to be Professor of Poetry at Oxford, in succession to Mr. F. T. Palgrave, whose second quinquennial term of office has expired.

THE following are the three first examiners nominated for the new school of English language and literature at Oxford: Prof. A. S. Napier, Prof. W. P. Ker (of University College, London), and Mr. C. H. Firth.

THE Rev. Augustus Jessopp, M.A., of St. John's College, Cambridge (1852), and D.D. of Worcester College, Oxford (1870), was, by a happy coincidence, elected an honorary fellow of

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Worcester on Thursday, November 28, and an honorary fellow of St. John's on the following day. This is perhaps the only case on record in which two colleges have almost simultaneously chosen the same person as one of their honorary fellows.

MR. WILLIAM STEBBING, formerly fellow, has also been elected to an honorary fellowship of Worcester.

THE Cambridge Greek Play Committee have resolved to produce "The Wasps" of Aristophanes in the New Theatre Royal in November, 1897.

IN Congregation at Cambridge next week, a grace will be offered to the senate, authorising the Vice-Chancellor to invite, on behalf of the university, representatives of the chief educational authorities and institutions in England to meet at Cambridge in the ensuing long (?) vacation, in order to confer on questions arising out of the report of the Royal Commission on Secondary Education.

MR. GEORGE CLARIDGE DRUCE, author of *The Flora of Oxfordshire* (1886), has been appointed to the new office of curator of the Fielding Herbarium at Oxford. Mr. Druce is a tradesman in the city, and also an honorary M.A. of the university.

THE widow of the late Prof. Bensly has presented his Oriental MSS. to the university library at Cambridge.

MR. H. ELLIS WOOLBRIDGE, the new Slade professor of fine art at Oxford, has matriculated as a member of Trinity.

PROF. R. A. SAMPSON, now at Newcastle-upon-Tyne, has been appointed to the chair of mathematics at Durham, vacant by the resignation of the Rev. Dr. Pearce.

A NEW departure in lecturing was made at Oxford this term, when Mr. J. Wells, of Wadham College, started his course upon "The Early History of the University." The subject was entered under the faculty of modern history, though the topic does not exactly come under any of the branches of that school. Mr. Wells had a well-deserved triumph; the audience grew larger as the lectures progressed, and it is hoped that they may be long repeated. The lime-light views with which the architectural history of the university was demonstrated were not the only illustrations used: a very considerable number of apposite drawings and miniatures in medieval MSS. were also turned to account.

ON Monday next, at 8 p.m., a free public lecture will be delivered in the theatre of King's College, London, by Prof. Thomson, on "Movements of Gases and Liquids, experimentally treated."

MESSRS. WILLIAM BLACKWOOD & SONS have published in pamphlet form the inaugural address which Prof. W. R. Hardie delivered on taking possession of the chair of humanity at Edinburgh. His subject is "The Character and Genius of the Roman People," and it is treated mainly from the point of view of contrast with the Greeks. For example, he says that "the Greek lived in a world of ideas, the Roman in a world of maxims"; and that "it would not be easy to translate into Greek, in their full significance, the words *paterfamilias* and *matrona*." Our readers may like to see his tribute to Prof. Sellar, his own teacher, though not his immediate predecessor in the chair:

"His accuracy never degenerated into pedantry, his literary appreciation never lost itself in vague generalities, his enthusiasm for classical literature never misled him into bestowing excessive and unfruitful praise upon obscure and inferior authors or writings. And with this soundness and completeness of scholarship he combined a personal charm, a mingled strength and kindness of nature, which

will long live—where it is best recorded—in the memories of his friends."

The lecture is prefaced with two copies of verses—one, in Greek elegiacs, bidding farewell to Greek; the other, in Latin sapphics, welcoming the Edinburgh to which he returns. We quote the former:

χαῖρε, πάλαι σεμνή, Μῆδων στήσασα τρόπαια,
Ἑλλάς, ἐλευθερίας πᾶσι δότεира βοτοῖν,
χαῖρετε δ' ἀρχαῖαι, χημὶν μέγα φέγγος, Ἀδῆναι,
χαῖρε, περικλύστου φῶς τὸ πάροιθε Χίον,
Μαιονίδη, σὺ δὲ χαῖρε, Σοφόκλεις, ἄσος ἀειδῶν.
χαῖρετε Παρθενῶν διζέλοφον κορυφαί-
ονκέρ' ἐγὼ μελᾶδροισιν ἐν θυμέτρῳις ὑποφύτης,
οὐκέρ' ἐπομφαλίον θαυροφόρος τριπόδος-
Αἰονόλον κλεινὴν ἦκα χθόνα, πατρίδ' ἀμείψας
πρὸς βορρῶν νοτίη, Ἑλλάδος Ἑσπερίην.

ORIGINAL VERSE.

CHANGE AND THE CHANGELESS.

If we complain that nature is not glad
As when we came to her in careless youth,
It is ourselves that have been growing sad;
All the exuberant spirit that we had
Seemed hers in very truth.
It is ourselves reflected that we see.
Nature has lips to teach
When we ourselves have gifted them with speech,
And then she can discourse most wondrously;
But if we come
In want and silence, she is simply dumb.

Ours is the changefulness, and not in her.
The everlasting hills are as they were;
The grass and daisies are as bright to-day
Upon the meadows wide,
As when ourselves were scampering at play.
The changefulness is ours: her joys abide.

ARTHUR L. SALMON.

MAGAZINES AND REVIEWS.

IN the December number of the *Antiquary* Miss Thoyts continues her interesting notes on water-marks in paper. We need hardly say that she has only graphically reproduced a few of those that are to be found. Though Mr. J. H. Slater's "Book-hunting and its Votaries" is not without interest, it is far too short; and what is given is too much compressed. We do not require that a paper of this sort should be exhaustive; but where the outlook is almost boundless, somewhat more of instruction or amusement might have been selected. "St. Katherine Cree," by the Rev. W. J. Loftie, is a very interesting paper, for two reasons. It was a new building during the time that "Laud filled the see of London, and it was he who consecrated it. The service he used at that time was, we may assume, his own compilation. This, and the way in which it was carried out, caused great irritation to the Puritans. It is not surprising that men who hated ritual of any kind should have been offended at what they heard and saw, but they were mistaken when they came to the conclusion that it was a reproduction of the Catholic service. Students of popular mythology will be interested in Miss Mabel Peacock's "Lincolnshire Water-lore." We trust that the work she has undertaken for Lincolnshire will be carried on in other counties. She tells her readers that there is a tradition that there once was at Holywell, near Stamford, a religious house of women. The index to the last edition of the *Monasticon* gives no reference throwing light on this. Many cells, or branch establishments, of our monastic institutions, male and female, are not mentioned in that valuable, but most inaccurate, compilation. If there be evidence of any house of that kind at Holywell, we trust that someone will draw attention to it.

SELECTED FOREIGN BOOKS.

GENERAL LITERATURE.

- ADELIN, Jules. La Légende du Violon de Faience. Paris: Conquet. 10 fr.
ALLERS, C. W., u. KRAMER. Unser Bismarck. Stuttgart: "Union." 40 M.
BRESLAU, E. Melodiebildungslehre auf Grundlage d. harmonischen u. rhythmischen Elements. Stuttgart: Grüninger. 2 M. 40.
DECKERT, H. Goethe's Schöne Seele Susanna Katharina v. Klettenberg. Gotha: Perthes. 3 M. 60.
ESTIGUARD, A. Jean Gigoux: sa vie, ses œuvres, ses collections. Paris: Fischbacher. 16 fr.
JAHRES, fünf, am Hofe des Königs v. Serbien (1889-1894). Von e. Diplomaten. Leipzig: Luckhardt. 2 M.
KRAUS, F. X. Geschichte der christlichen Kunst. 1. Bd. 1. Abth. Freiburg-i.-B.: Herder. 8 M.
LAROUMET, G. L'Art et l'Etat en France. Paris: Hachette. 3 fr. 50.
LECANUET, P. Montalembert: sa jeunesse (1810-1830). Paris: Poussielgue. 5 fr.
NEULAN, A. Die böhmische Frage. Wachwitz-Dresden. 4 M.
PARTSCH, J. Schlesien. 1. Th. Das ganze Land. Breslau: Hirt. 9 M.
POSCHINGER, H. Ritter v. Fürst Bismarck u. die Parlamentarier. 3. Bd. 1879-1890. Breslau: Trowent. 7 M. 50.
RINGL, A. E. orientalischer Teppich vom J. 1202 n. Chr. u. die ältesten orientalischen Teppiche. Berlin: Siemens. 8 M.
ROUSSEAU, J. J. Du Contrat social: le texte définitif, avec introduction et des notes par E. Dreyfus-Brisac, &c. Paris: Alcan. 12 fr.
SELENKA, E. u. L. Sonnige Welten. Ostasiatische Reise-skizzen. Wiesbaden: Kreidel. 12 M. 60.
STEVENS, E. W. Shakespeare's zweiter mittelalterlicher Dramen-Cyclus. Berlin: Reuther. 5 M.
WISLIZENUS, G. Unsere Kriegsgelotte. Leipzig: Brockhaus. 30 M.
WEISS, J. J. Les Théâtres parisiens. Paris: Calmann Lévy. 3 fr. 50.
WEISTHUMER, oesterreichische. Gesammelt v. der kaiserl. Akademie der Wissenschaften. 8. Bd. Wien: Braumüller. 60 M.

THEOLOGY, ETC.

- GREGORIUS ABULFARG, BAR-HEBRAEUS. Scholien zum Evangelium Lukae. Hrsrg. v. N. Eisenhart. Berlin: Calvary. 2 M.
SAINT-ALBIN, Emu. de. Les Bibliothèques municipales de la Ville de Paris. Paris: Berger-Levrault. 7 fr. 50.
SCHMID, R. Marius Victorinus Rhetor u. seine Beziehungen zu Augustin. Kiel: Eckardt. 1 M. 60.
STAFFER, E. Jésus-Christ avant son Ministère. Paris: Fischbacher. 3 fr.
STERNAGEL, C. Die Entstehung d. deuteronomischen Gesetzes, kritisch u. biblischtheologisch untersucht. Halle: Krause. 4 M.

HISTORY, ETC.

- ANGELI, M. Edler v. Erzherzog Carl v. Oesterreich als Feldherr u. Heeresorganisator. 1. Bd. 1. Hälfte. Wien: Braumüller. 12 M.
CAHUN, Léon. Introduction à l'histoire de l'Asie (Turcs et Mongols—des origines à 1405). Paris: Colin. 10 fr.
FAZY, H. Les Suisses et la neutralité de la Savoie, 1703-4. Paris: Fischbacher. 6 fr.
FRIEDRICH, V. Die amici populi romani republikanischer Zeit. Leipzig: Fock. 2 M.
LEMAITRE, A. Notes sur la Guerre de l'Indépendance grecque. Paris: Martin. 3 fr. 50.
MORITZ, H. Die Wahl Rudolf II. der Reichstag zu Regensburg (1576) u. die Freistellungsbewegung. Marburg: Elwert. 12 M.
RÉVILLE, Eug. Mélanges sur la métrologie, l'économie politique et l'histoire de l'ancienne Egypte. Paris: Maisonneuve. 100 fr.
ROCHERON, C. de. Les Jésuites et la Nouvelle France au XVII^e Siècle. Paris: Letouzey. 22 fr. 50.
ROST, Michel. Les Chroniques de Genève, p. p. H. Fazy. Paris: Fischbacher. 12 fr.
ROTHE, Tancrède. Traité de Droit naturel théorique et appliqué. T. 3e. De la Famille. Paris: Larose. 12 fr.
STAMMELER, R. Wirtschaft u. Recht nach der materialistischen Geschichtsauffassung. Eine sozialphilosoph. Untersuchung. Leipzig: Veit. 14 M.

PHYSICAL SCIENCE AND PHILOSOPHY.

- CANTOR, M. Vorlesungen üb. Geschichte der Mathematik. 3. Bd. 2. Abth. Die Zeit von 1700 bis 1726. Leipzig: Teubner. 6 M.
HUEPPE, F. Naturwissenschaftliche Einführung in die Bakteriologie. Wiesbaden: Kreidel. 6 M.
ORTMANN, A. E. Grundzüge der maritimen Tiergeographie. Jena: Fischer. 2 M. 50.
PRINGSHEIM, N. Gesammelte Abhandlungen. 2. Bd. Phycomyceten, Charen, Moose, Farne. Jena: Fischer. 15 M.
ROUX, W. Gesammelte Abhandlungen üb. Entwicklungsmechanik der Organismen. Leipzig: Engelmann. 48 M.
SCHWARTZ, Th. Grundgesetze der Molekularphysik. Leipzig: Weber. 4 M.
SUCKER, L. Die Fische nebst den casarben wirbellosen Thieren der Adria u. ihre Zubereitung. Triest: Schimpff. 2 M.
VOLKMAN, P. Franz Neumann, 1898-1896. Ein Beitrag zur Geschichte deutscher Wissenschaft. Leipzig: Teubner. 2 M. 40.
WERNY, A. Die Pflege der Mineralogie in Böhmen. 1. Hälfte. Prag: Dominicus. 3 M. 60.

PHILOLOGY, ETC.

- BÜCKER, Ph. A. Die altfranzösische Wilhelmsage u. ihre Beziehung zu Wilhelm dem Heiligen. Halle: Niemeyer. 4 M. 40.
- DELITZSCH, F. Assyrisches Handwörterbuch. 3. Th. Leipzig: Hinrichs. 13 M.
- GRIMM, J. u. W. Deutsches Wörterbuch. 12. Bd. 6. Lfg. Vervollständigung—Verschönerung. Bearb. v. E. Wülfker. Leipzig: Hirzel. 2 M.
- HEBTEL, L. Thüringer Sprachschatz. Weimar: Böhlau. 4 M.
- IMMICH, O. Philologische Studien zu Plato. 1. Hft. Axiarchus. Leipzig: Teubner. 3 M.
- KROGER, E. Geschichte der griechischen Literatur. 1. Bd. Die Poesie. Leipzig: Grunow. 2 M. 50.
- KORDEN, F. Geschichte der klassischen Philologie auf der Universität Helmstedt. Braunschweig: Vieweg. 6 M.
- SCHMIDT, J. Kritik der Sonantentheorie. Weimar: Böhlau. 5 M.
- SPINGELBERG, W. Die ägyptische Sammlung d. Museum-Meermann-Westreenianum im Haag. Strassburg: Trübner. 6 M.
- WINDISCH, E. Ueb. die Bedeutung d. indischen Altertums. Leipzig: Edelmann. 1 M.

CORRESPONDENCE.

AN ELEVENTH CENTURY BALLAD OF SWEET WILLIAM.

Bodleian Library, Oxford.

The following poem, which I copied some years ago from MS. Bodley 38, is so curious and so touching that, if (as I imagine) it has not been printed before, everyone will be glad to read it.

The volume containing it is almost small enough to go into a waistcoat-pocket, and is made up of four separate MSS., one of which is a copy of poems from Boethius, written in the late twelfth century, in or near the territory now called France. At the end of the Boethius were two and a half pages of vellum unfilled; and into the first one and a half pages a contemporary hand has squeezed our poem, leaving the last and outside page blank, because it was liable to be soiled. The verses are for the most part written as prose, but a capital letter begins the first, third, and fifth lines in each stanza. The "i's" have no strokes over them.

Foribus abierat fabrefactis curribus
equitabat foris effrenis curribus
Radiis inferens silvanis fontibus
agitando feras profus rictibus
Mortales delerant membra foribus
April tempore quod nuper transit
fideli imago coram me additit
Me uocant dulciter paucillum totigit
oppressa lacrimis uox eius deficit
Sustinent et enim loqui non ualuit
Illius actus nimis intremui
uelud exterrita sursum infili
Extensis brachiis corpus applicui
enauit enim nichil retinui
Extanguis penitus tota dirigit
Sopore libera exclamo fortiter
quo fugi amabo cur tam celeriter
Siste gradum suus inibo pariter
nam tecum uiuere uolo perhenniter
Mox me penitus dixisse taliter
Aperte fuerant fenestre folli
fulgebant pulcritur diane radii
Heume h'eu miseram tam diu dolui
fluxerunt per genas ploratui riui
Donec in crastino nunquam abstinui

Prepositions are joined to their cases in "profus" and "actui"; "Me uocant" may be meant to be joined: "nichil" and "perhenniter" look like "ni chil" and "per henniter." In stanza 1, *rictibus*, if correct, = "smiles"; in classical Latin it would = "laughs" or "grins"—but *ictibus* would suit the context far better. In stanza 2, *fideli* is a genitive = "of my faithful one." In stanza 3, *folii* = "of the chamber," and I think *crastino* was meant to = *crastinum*: the apostrophe in *h'eu* I take it to be a case of miscopying, unless it indicates a prolonged sighing pronunciation.

The metre is that which appears in the next century in French as the Alexandrine. Each line consists of six two-syllable feet, with a break after the third foot.

The poem reads as if it were written in a woodland country, watered by small streams, and where April nights were warm enough for the windows to be left open—unless the meaning is that the "imago" had opened them. It is, of course, put in the mouth of a woman.

I strongly suspect that it suggested the metre and machinery of the celebrated "Apocalypsis Goliae Episcopi" (written in the twelfth century and attributed to Walter Map), which begins thus:

"A tauro torrida lampade Cynthii
fundente jacula ferventis radii,
umbrosas nemoris latebras adii,
explorans gratiam lenis Favonii.

"Aestivae medio diei tempore,
frondosa recubans Jovis sub arbore,
astantis video formam Pythagorae:
Deus scit, nescio, utrum in corpore.

Cito praelabitur quem sequi caeperam;"

I quote from Wright's Camden Society edition.

E. W. B. NICHOLSON.

THE SIN-EATER IN WALES.

I.

London: Nov. 25, 1895.

Mr. E. Sidney Hartland, in his article in *Folk-lore*, in his paper read before the British Association, in his two letters in the *Times*, and his three letters in the *ACADEMY*, has attempted to prove the existence of what Aubrey said was known in Herefordshire, and what Mr. Moggridge, of Swansea, said was known in the neighbourhood of Llandeibie, Carmarthenshire, as "Sin-eating." He has also attempted to prove that the alleged custom is "Celtic." He has also attempted to prove that the Welsh funeral custom of the *diodles*, as described by Robert Jones, Bingley—both of whom give the Welsh name—Wirt Sikes, Evans, Peter Roberts, Pennant, &c., is a mutilated survival of a cannibalistic savage rite formerly practised by "the Celts," the central feature of which was "eating the corpse." I venture to submit that he has failed entirely in making out his case. Moreover, he has committed the blunder of withholding evidence that militated against his theory. That evidence he had himself expressly stated to me, weeks before the appearance of his first letter in these pages, to be "far and away the strongest" he had seen. How unfortunate the omission is may be gathered from the fact that the evidence in question affords a plausible explanation of what is otherwise inexplicable: I mean Mr. Moggridge's reply to the late Mr. E. A. Freeman's question at Ludlow.

Mr. Hartland says (*ACADEMY*, November 9) that it was "unnecessary to quote" Mr. Moggridge's paper. Therein I differ from him, and beg leave to quote somewhat regarding the amusing little comedy of errors enacted by the Cambrian Archaeologists at Ludlow:

"Mr. Moggridge (of the Willows, Swansea), after describing the Sin-eater, said that in Carmarthenshire, not far from Llandeibie, was a mountain valley, where, up to the commencement of the present century, the people were of a very lawless character. There the above practice was said to have prevailed to a recent period. . . . [Later on he said] that 'he believed that people were thoroughly ashamed of the practice; one case, he was informed, occurred four or five years ago, but he believed it was extinct now.' Mr. E. A. Freeman inquired whether Sin-eater was the term used in the district where the custom prevailed. Mr. Moggridge replied in the affirmative" (*Arch. Camb.*, 1852, vol. iii., N.S., p. 330).

There were present at that meeting several Welshmen who are (I believe) still alive. One certainly is the Bishop of St. David's. I am under the impression that the Bishop knows the Welsh language, and can speak it fluently. It would be very interesting to get his Lordship's account of what really passed at the meeting. He must have known that it was impossible for a Welsh custom to "prevail" in a Welsh mountain valley in the heart of Welsh Wales without having a Welsh name. Yet it was left to Mr. Freeman to investigate Mr. Moggridge's staggering statement, and of course the latter's "reply in the affirmative" was bound to silence the Englishman. Now the mountain valley in question—Cwmamman—may have been "lawless" as regards fighting, poaching, and trifles of that sort, up to the commencement of this century. As an outlying district of the huge parish of Llandilo, it had no church until about fifty years ago, but it had plenty of chapels. The Independents had by far the largest congregation; and when I first remember it, in the early sixties, its minister was one of the most famous preachers in South Wales, the Rev. John Davies, an extremely handsome, old-fashioned gentleman of the finest manners, who always wore swallow-tails and knee-breeches. A relative of my own—the Rev. W. I. Morris, of Pontypridd—then a grown-up man, had, I think, lived up to that time in Cwmamman. I used to spend a day or two regularly once a month or so at his father's house, where I revelled in the *Traethodydd*, *Adolygydd*, and other Welsh periodicals, of which they had a plentiful store. As I am writing, it suddenly occurs to me that an article on Cwmamman and its characters appeared in the *Beirniad* quarterly review some time in the sixties.

And now for my suggestion. I think it is beyond a doubt that Mr. Moggridge had some foundation for his assertion, and that it reached him somehow or other from Llandeibie. The vicar of Llandeibie, as also of the neighbouring parish of Bettws, from 1804 to 1850, was the Rev. John Williams. The road from Llandeibie to Bettws runs right across the opening of Cwmamman. Well, after the old vicar's death, my father bought at the vicarage sale a quantity of Welsh books and periodicals. Among them was Robert Jones of Rhoslan's *Drych*, which was a great favourite of mine when a boy. It must be borne in mind that that is a North Walian work, and that *diodles*, or *diodlys*, is a North Walian term. In the Welsh-English Dictionary by "T. Lewis and others," published at Carmarthen in 1805, there is no mention of *diodlys*, *cupan y meirw*, *chl coffa*, *bwyd cenad meirw*, *bara rhan*, or *cacen gwyl y meirw*. The term, therefore, most probably heard by Mr. Moggridge was the term applied to the North Walian custom described by Robert Jones; and that it came either directly or indirectly from the vicar of Llandeibie is very possible. This may appear to an Englishman a very minute point to attach importance to; but it must be remembered that in Welsh Wales (in Llandeibie at any rate) there is not a field, nor a clump of trees, nor a rivulet, nor a custom, that has not its own appropriate name.

In a succeeding letter I propose to deal with Aubrey, with Miss Hope's Pembrokeshire minister, and with each item of the North Walian custom described by Pennant and others.

J. P. OWEN.

"BENCH" = "BANK."

Oxford: Dec. 2, 1895.

In Mr. P. S. Allen's notice of Mr. Lupton's edition of More's *Utopia*, in last week's *ACADEMY*, the reviewer says "Mr. Lupton is

puzzled by the expression 'a benche coueryd with grene torues'; this he proceeds himself to explain correctly, and offers the suggestion, "Perhaps Robynson also may have understood a *bank*, as he has a similar vowel change in *bende* for *bande*." Whence it appears that in discussing the sense of a sixteenth century word in B, neither editor nor reviewer turned to the dictionary, where they would have found *Bench* fully explained and illustrated, and have seen that bank or ridge of earth is one of its ordinary senses from the middle of the fifteenth to the middle of the seventeenth century. According to the plan of the dictionary, this sense is illustrated by one quotation for each century (probably a dozen might have been given had space allowed), that for the sixteenth century being actually the passage under discussion; for the fifteenth century there is a quotation, "Vnto a benche of camomylle my wofulle hede I dyd inlyne," and for the seventeenth one from Elias Ashmole for "benches covered with new Turves grene."

A glance at the words *Bond sb.* and *Bend sb.* would also have informed the reviewer as to the actual relation between these two cognate words, which is, of course, something more than "vowel change."

After all the work done by two thousand readers in scouring the field of English literature so as to render it possible to make a biographical dictionary of English words, and after all the efforts of the Philological Society and the Oxford University Press to put the results in digested form within the reach of everyone, it is disheartening to find that there are writers upon words who fail to use the offered light, and continue with unsatisfactory results to grope their way in the darkness.

J. A. H. MURRAY.

MORE'S "UTOPIA."

Pinner, Middlesex: Dec. 2, 1895.

In his review of Mr. Lupton's fine edition of Sir Thomas More's *Utopia*, Mr. Allen calls attention at once to an oversight in an editorial note and to a curious blunder in Robynson's early translation. More tells us that the river Anyder (by which he no doubt means the Thames) rose eighty miles above Amaurote (London). Of course, we do not expect great exactitude in computation here; but Robynson's translation diminished the length to twenty-four miles, which, besides being inaccurate, makes the analogy with the Thames impossible. Mr. Allen says "the error seems inexplicable." But, in point of fact, nothing can be so easily explained; and as the explanation may be useful to critics in cases of a similar character, I would ask leave to lay it before your readers.

The word is *octoginta* in the original, which Robynson no doubt translated (as I believe almost any other man in those days would have been sure to do), not "eighty," but "four score." And the way to represent "four score" in Roman numerals was equally a matter of course—first, "iiii" or "iiij" (the last "i" being commonly turned into a "j") written on the line, and "xx" above the line,

thus "iiij^{xx}." But it is clear that Robynson's printers transposed the "xx" and placed it on the line before the "iiij." Hence the error.

JAMES GAIRDNER.

ERASMUS AND STEPHEN GARDINER.

Oxford: Dec. 2, 1895.

In reply to Mr. Nichols's letter in the ACADEMY of November 23, my only acquaintance with the MS. of Gardiner's letter is from a copy kindly made for me by Herr

Markgraf, of the Stadtbibliothek, Breslau. In that copy *posset* is unmistakably written, nor is there any trace of the possibility of such an interpolation as Mr. Nichols suggests a few lines below. It is surely dangerous to begin emending the Latin of sixteenth century letter-writers, who were not above losing the thread of a long sentence. *Ille* is, of course, a misprint.

I can find no clue to explain Leclerc's alteration of the date of Erasmus' letter. I do not know the history of Rehder's Codices, but it seems to me highly improbable that, as Mr. Nichols suggests, Leclerc can have seen Gardiner's letter. He must have recognised its importance, and he would surely have printed it, as he has printed so many other letters to Erasmus.

I should be interested to know in what sense Josse Bade "presided at the birth of the first edition of the *Adages*." My notes of the first edition ascribe it to Johannes Philippus (de Cruzenach) Mamanus.

Mr. Nichols satisfactorily dissipates the story of Gardiner's relation to Lionel Wodeville, who died, according to Le Neve, even a year earlier than Mr. Nichols says, sometime before March 13, 1483.

P. S. ALLEN.

"DIFFERENT TO."

London: Dec. 2, 1895.

In asking whether a writer who says "different to" would also say "I differ to you," I was perfectly serious—as serious as anyone ever is who employs the *argumentum ad absurdum*. Nobody says, and I venture to predict that nobody ever will say, "differ to," there not being the fatal attraction of the final *t*; but in itself the combination would not be more outrageous than "different to." I called the latter "school-girl English," because I believe it is used by all school-girls without exception, even by those who have been told that it is wrong; whereas in the opinion of your correspondent (ACADEMY, Nov. 23) some men at least seem to be open to correction on the subject. Anyhow, grammatical, like other abuses, are not reformed until attention is called to them in language perhaps more strong than discriminating.

As regards "in circumstances," versus "under circumstances," I am told that Walter Savage Landor insisted that the former alone was correct, on the ground that if things are standing round one, one is not "under" but "in" them. "In circumstances" there is more logical than "under circumstances"; and it has the additional merit of saving three letters.

ALFRED W. BENN.

MATTHEW ARNOLD.

London: Nov. 29, 1895.

Mea Culpa. It is true, as you point out, that Matthew Arnold did not win the Hertford Scholarship; but, in justice to my friend's Latinity, let me record that he was "honourably mentioned" for it in 1842, his companion in that distinction being the present Dean of Westminster.

G. W. E. RUSSELL.

APPOINTMENTS FOR NEXT WEEK.

SUNDAY, Dec. 8, 4 p.m. Sunday Lecture: "The Fallacies of Capital Punishment," by Sir B. W. Richardson.
8 p.m. Ethical: "The Decline of the Family," by Mr. J. H. Muirhead.
MONDAY, Dec. 9, 5 p.m. London Institution: "Sketches in Parliament," by Mr. F. Carruthers Gould.
8 p.m. Society of Arts: Cantor Lecture, "Mechanical Road Carriages," II., by Mr. W. Worby Beaumont.
8 p.m. Library Association: "The Library Assistants' Association," by Mr. R. A. Peddie.

8.30 p.m. Geographical: "Exploration in the Central Alps of Japan," by the Rev. Walter Weston.
TUESDAY, Dec. 10, 4 p.m. Asiatic: "The Sword of Moses, an Ancient Book of Magic," by the Rev. Dr. M. Gaster.

8 p.m. Civil Engineers: Discussion, "The Physical Properties of Iron and Steel."

8 p.m. Colonial Institute: "The Future of our Sugar-producing Colonies," by Justice Condé Williams, of Mauritius.

8.30 p.m. Anthropological: "The Game of Teototum, Queensland," and "Australian Shields, more particularly the Drumung," by Mr. R. Etheridge, jun.; "Stone Cooking-Holes and Grooves for Stone-Grinding used by the Australian Aborigines," "The Burbing of the Wiradjuri Tribes," and "The Bora or Initiation Ceremonies of the Kamilaroi," II., by Mr. R. H. Mathews.

WEDNESDAY, Dec. 11, 8 p.m. Society of Arts: Discussion, "Locomotive Carriages for Common Roads."

THURSDAY, Dec. 12, 6 p.m. London Institution: Travers Lecture, "The Results of the War between China and Japan, and their Probable Effects on British Trade," by Mr. Arthur Didsy.

8 p.m. Mathematical: "The Convergency of Series," by Dr. R. Bryant; "Sexdecimio Residuarity of 2," by Lieut.-Col. Allan Cunningham; "Symmetric Functions of the Roots of Equations," by Prof. W. H. Metzler.

8 p.m. Electrical Engineers: Annual General Meeting.

8.30 p.m. Antiquaries.

FRIDAY, Dec. 13, 5 p.m. Physical: "A Mechanical Device for Performing the Temperature Corrections of Barometers," by Dr. Shield; "The Existence of Earth-Air Electrical Currents," by Prof. Rücker.

8.30 p.m. Viking Club: "The Vikings in Lake-

Land," by Mr. W. G. Collingwood.
SATURDAY, Dec. 14, 3.45 p.m. Botanic: General Fortnightly Meeting.

SCIENCE.

CURRENT SCIENTIFIC LITERATURE.

The Natural History of Aquatic Insects. By Prof. L. C. Miall, F.R.S. (Macmillans.) This admirable book on aquatic zoology embraces the substance of the latest monographs and papers on the subject. But there is also much original work in it, and its aim is to induce students to practise original work for themselves. After stating some of the qualities of the "surface-film" of water which aquatic plants and animals turn to account in various ways to suit their own habits of life, Mr. Miall details the economy of the chief representative insects—beetles, diptera, caddis-flies, dragon-flies, and the like. Over and above the biologist, for whom it is primarily intended, this book possesses a special interest for the angler. The alder, stone, and May flies are most carefully treated; and the study of their life-history will add another charm to the riverside, while the traditional fables respecting the birth and habits of these flies are effectually dispelled. The illustrations of dissections and minute structures, by Mr. A. R. Hammond, cannot but prove helpful. If any country-dweller wishes to open a hitherto unsuspected mine of interest near his daily walks, let him work through Prof. Miall's little book.

Birdcraft. By Mabel O. Wright. (Macmillans.) If anyone would recognise and know something of the habits of the birds of North America, this is the handbook for him. In an informal and yet useful manner, after four chapters on winter and summer birds and their nests, the authoress introduces her readers to two hundred of the commonest species of American birds. A key to the distribution, plumage, nests, and the like, follows; and then life-histories of each are added, with notes respectively on its size, difference between the sexes, its note, its stay in the country, nest, eggs, and range. It is thus semi-scientific and semi-popular. English readers will be glad to know something authoritatively of the flicker, cardinal bird, bobolink, and other birds which appear in American literature, while the book will be of much service to residents in the States. Coloured pictures of more than a hundred species are appended from Audubon, Warren, Kay, and Ridgeway; but ornithology was never learnt from coloured figures. The tone of the book is excellent, and its scope laudably wide.

Fishes, Living and Fossil. By Bashford Dean. (Macmillans.) This carefully written manual belongs to the biological series of Columbia University, where Dr. Dean is instructor in biology. The geological distribution and evolution of fish are brought up to the standard of knowledge at present. Mr. A. Smith Woodward's catalogue of fossil fishes proving here specially useful. Günther and Agassiz, together with a large number of monographs and separate articles, have been used in describing the life-histories of the great families of fish. Good tables on the derivation of fish names, bibliography, special parts of piscine anatomy, and the like, are appended; and three hundred figures are of great service to the student. Altogether, this manual can be confidently recommended.

"PRESENT DAY PRIMERS."—*The Plants of the Bible.* By the Rev. G. Henslow. (Religious Tract Society.) There are, says Mr. Henslow, one hundred and twenty plants mentioned in the Bible, and of these his modest little volume gives a succinct and useful account. Mr. Henslow starts by pointing out how Sir Joseph Hooker divides the vegetation of Palestine and Syria into three botanical areas. These are the Western lowlands and maritime regions, the Eastern desert countries, and the central tablelands with the mountains of the North. But in working his subject out in detail Mr. Henslow employs another division—more useful to the general reader—into textile materials, garden herbs and medicine, bitter herbs, herbs used in arts or as food, odorous gums, fruit and timber trees, and desert plants. His chapters may be warmly recommended; but the illustrations are not quite so useful. Well-done as they are, they represent the wrong thing. We do not remember ever before to have seen dried plants photographed as they lie in the herbarium, bent, and with straps of white paper holding them in place. Even a rough sketch of the plant "in his habit as he lived" would be more useful, because really more truthful.

Handbook of Grasses. By W. Hutchinson. (Swan Sonnenschein.) The study of the grasses, from a botanist's point of view, is a very fascinating though somewhat difficult subject; and Mr. Hutchinson's handbook treating of their structure, classification, distribution, and uses, should find a ready welcome. The treatise, while small and plainly written, is quite scientific and leaves nothing to be unlearned. The floral diagram and other illustrations make the complicated structure of the flower of the Gramineae as clear as anything but familiarity can make it. Mr. Hutchinson devotes his chief attention to the British species, but the key or classification which he gives is extended to foreign tribes as well. The word micropyle (pp. 5, 13) should, of course, be spelled micropyle; and it would, perhaps, be as well to say that *Lagurus ovatus* is found in the Channel Islands, not "only in Guernsey."

Inmates of My House and Garden. By Mrs. Brightwen. (Fisher Unwin.) Good as were Mrs. Brightwen's two previous books on kindness to animals, the present one is a great advance, both in the width of her researches and in her universal sympathy with animal life. Its tone is admirable. Whatever disabled bird or creature comes in her way at once meets with a friend and protector, and a carefully written chapter tells how these foundlings repaid her kindness and grew into amusing pets. Of late Mrs. Brightwen has extended her studies to entomology; and, without making any pretensions to scientific treatment, she tells of bees, and wasps, and clothes' moths, in an enthusiastic manner which ought to kindle people's curiosity and

show them how much may be learnt from common everyday insects. She watched her pet tortoise as carefully as Gilbert White moralised over "Timothy." *Inmates of My House and Garden* is prettily illustrated, and is just the book to put into the hands of young readers with a taste for natural history. It will do good in every family which it reaches, and ought to be found in every village schoolroom.

Simple Means for Detecting Food Adulteration. By J. A. Bower. (S.P.C.K.) The writer of this useful little book intends it to be not only a course of technical training, but also a guide to good health, by enabling readers to detect worthless or impure food. It threatens a reign of terror at the breakfast-table. The author gives simple directions for discovering dishonest compounds in bread, milk, tea and coffee, sugar, jams, and all the ordinary fare of the meal. These are supplemented with an account of the adulterations chiefly used in beer, wine, vinegar, and the like; the student is thus taught to work at his microscope to good purpose. The intrinsic value of this book is considerable, and it will form an excellent help to the youthful chemist. The starch-group in particular is carefully illustrated.

Hidden Beauties of Nature. By R. Kerr, F.G.S. (Religious Tract Society.) The lower manifestations of life are here treated, and would form a further course of study for the microscopist. They show how inexhaustible are the wonders attaching to the minute forms of animal life. Mr. Kerr reminds his readers how much has yet to be discovered respecting the history and manner of life of these creatures of the ooze and slime. The illustrations are numerous and useful. Those of the Radiolaria from the "Challenger" Series are new and very striking.

Nature's Story. By H. Farquhar, B.D. (Oliphant, Anderson & Ferrier.) In some twenty chapters on Protective Colours, the Dispersal of Seed, the Ice Age, and the like, the author teaches children some of the prominent doctrines of Darwinian biology. Several of these chapters have appeared in a Scotch theological magazine, and their style suggests that thinkers in Scotland take to science in very tender years. For instance, when treating of the bat, the author writes:

"Work as she liked, old Mrs. Bat could hardly get enough food for herself and her interesting family. How often she looked into the air, where the insects were flying about in such a tantalising way, and thought: Oh, if only I could get up there after you, what a hearty meal I should get."

Most young people would prefer the science to the prattle in this book, which is neither better nor worse than dozens like it which have been lately published.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE PALI TEXT SOCIETY.

London: Dec. 2, 1895.

I regret to have to inform you that at the sudden and destructive fire at Messrs. Unwin's printing works on November 23, almost the whole of the MS. of the editions of the Katha Vatthu, prepared by Mr. Arnold C. Taylor, and of the Aithā Silini, prepared by Prof. Eduard Müller, for the Pali Text Society issues of the next two years were burnt. I have heard from Mr. Taylor, who has been kind enough to undertake to do the work over again; and I hope that Prof. E. Müller may be persuaded also to complete his edition, of which only seventy-five pages were in type. But a considerable period must elapse before this can be done, or other works prepared to take their place. Will you allow me through the

ACADEMY to appeal to the members of the Pali Text Society for their sympathy and forbearance?

T. W. RHYS DAVIDS.

"EDDA."

Cambridge: Dec. 2, 1895.

In the report, in last week's ACADEMY, of my paper on "Edda," read before the Viking Club, towards the end of the third column on p. 464, I beg you will allow me to correct a misprint; the words "pollr" and "pella" should read "pollr" and "pella."

Perhaps I may be allowed at the same time to state, apropos of the derivation of "Edda" from *ǫðr*, that no genuine Icelandic stem, with *ǫð-* for a terminative element, can generate any derivative form with *edd-* for a terminative element.

EIRÍKR MAGNÚSSON.

SCIENCE NOTES.

THE Christmas course of lectures, adapted to a juvenile auditory, at the Royal Institution, will be delivered this year by Prof. J. G. McKendrick. The subject will be "Sound, Hearing, and Speech," and the lectures will be experimentally illustrated. The first will be delivered on Saturday, December 28, at 3 p.m.

The meeting of the Anthropological Institute, to be held on Tuesday next, will be entirely devoted to Australian matters. Five papers in all are down for reading—two by Mr. R. Etheridge, Jun., and three by Mr. R. H. Mathews; while Mr. J. Edge-Partington has promised to exhibit some ethnographical objects from Matty Island.

A COMMITTEE has been formed to make arrangements for presenting to Prof. Adolf Bastian, Professor of Ethnology in Berlin, a volume of original essays on various branches of ethnology, anthropology, and kindred sciences, when he attains his seventieth birthday in June next.

IN September of next year the Smithsonian Institution will celebrate its jubilee. A special volume will be published to commemorate the event; and two memorial tablets will be erected in honour of the founder at Genoa, where he died June 26, 1829: one in the English church, and one upon his tomb in the English cemetery.

DR. J. D. GILCHRIST has been appointed marine biologist to the government of the Cape of Good Hope. He will be charged with the investigation of the marine resources of the country, especially in their practical relations to the fisheries.

THE municipal council of Arbois, the birth-place of Pasteur, has decided to erect a statue to his memory, and also to call the municipal college the Pasteur College.

PHILOLOGY NOTES.

AT the meeting of the Royal Asiatic Society, to be held on Tuesday next, the Rev. Dr. M. Gaster will read a paper on "The Sword of Moses, an Ancient Book of Magic."

THE trustees of the British Museum have lately purchased an Arabic MS. of great value and interest. It contains two treatises on Christian theology (Coptic), the first being a work in twenty-eight chapters, without author's name, and the second a special treatise on the cult relating to images of Christ and the saints by Theodoros Abu Kurrah, Bishop of Harrân. The MS. is dated in the 264th year of the Hegira, equivalent to A.D. 877.

THE introductory lecture of M. Jules Oppert's course on Assyriology, delivered this week at the Collège de France, was devoted to the life and work of the late Sir Henry Rawlinson.

REPORTS OF SOCIETIES.

HELLENIC.—(Monday, November 4.)

MISS JANE HARRISON read a paper on the "Enneakrounos Question," in which she sought to show, by the light of recent excavations on the west slope of the Acropolis at Athens, that the passage in chap. xv. of the second book of Thucydides relating to the fountain Enneakrounos has hitherto been wholly misunderstood. Miss Harrison advocated Dr. Dürpfeld's view, that the site of the fountain is to the west rather than the south of the Acropolis, and claimed that Thucydides, properly translated, supports this opinion. She held that the generally accepted sites for the temples of Olympian Zeus, Pythian Apollo, Earth, and Dionysus in the Marshes, mentioned by Thucydides as being close to the fountain, are, in fact, too remote. The fountain, she suggested, lay between the Areopagus, the Acropolis, and the Pnyx. In support of this she urged that a number of wells have been found there, and that the place was so wet that excavations were often stopped by standing water; also that a chamber had been found in the Pnyx rock with a passage leading down to a spring. Thucydides speaks of the fountain having at first been called Callirrhoe, but afterwards Enneakrounos, "from the form given it by the tyrants." Now evidence of artificial augmentation of water supply on this site had been found in an aqueduct appearing to date from the time of the Pistratids. The fountain-house had not been discovered; but a Roman house stood where it ought to be, and into this bits of the old structure had been built. Dr. Dürpfeld also claims to have discovered the precinct of Dionysus, in the shape of a triangular structure whose identity is proved by the fact that in one of its corners there exists a winepress, which was sacred to the cult of Dionysus. The remaining three of the sites mentioned by Thucydides have not yet been discovered, but Miss Harrison gave reasons why they may be supposed to have existed in close proximity.—A discussion was opened by Mr. Ernest Gardner, who recommended suspense of judgment until more decisive evidence was available.

METEOROLOGICAL.—(Wednesday, November 20.)

R. INWARDS, Esq., president, in the chair.—A paper was read by Mr. J. Eliot, on "The Origin of the Cold Weather Storms of 1893 in India, and the Character of the Air Movement on the Indian Seas and the Equatorial Belt, more especially during the South-West Monsoon." This was really a discussion of the data contained in the *Indian Monsoon Area Charts*, the publication of which was sanctioned by the Indian Government for the two years 1893-4. Cyclonic storms are of frequent occurrence during both the N.E. and the S.W. monsoons, but they differ in many important respects. The storms of the S.W. monsoon originate almost invariably over a sea surface, and travel in very variable directions, and occasionally develop into intense and furious hurricanes. The cyclonic storms of the N.E. monsoon almost invariably originate over the plateau of Persia or Baluchistan, or in North-Western India, and travel in an easterly direction at a velocity ranging between fifteen and twenty miles per hour. These plateau-formed storms of the cold weather are the chief instruments of the distribution of the moderate rainfall essential for the great cold-weather wheat and other crops of Northern India, and are the chief sources of the snowfall of the Western Himalayas. After giving an account of the more important cold-weather storms in January and February, 1893, and the results of the tabulation of the wind observations for the equatorial belt, the author describes the "burst of the monsoon." Mr. Eliot says that the evidence of the year 1893 is strongly in favour of the supposition that the S.W. monsoon currents in the Indian Seas are the direct continuation, north of the equator, of the horizontal movement of the S.E. trade winds; and that the larger variations in the strength of the S.E. trades near the equator

during the monsoon period are reproduced in the monsoon currents in the Indian Seas from June to September.—Mr. W. H. Dines showed an experiment illustrating the formation of the tornado cloud. The characteristic funnel cloud was readily seen extending from the tray of hot water to the mouth of the pipe at the top of the box; and when the draught was strong and the conditions favourable, a decided protuberance was observed on the surface of the water, just under the end of the cloud. Mr. Dines is of opinion that the cloud is formed by true dynamic cooling, as the air saturated by the vapour from the hot water comes under the influence of the decreased pressure at the centre.

HISTORICAL.—(November 21.)

SIR M. E. GRANT DUFF, president, in the chair.—The following gentlemen were elected fellows of the society: Mr. T. Quinn, Frederick Barry, Arthur Hughes, A. St. J. Story-Maskelyne, G. W. Speth, W. Godfrey, and H. T. Gardiner.—Papers were read by Mr. Hubert Hall on "The First Parliament Roll," and by Mr. J. Foster Palmer on "The Celtic Chroniclers of Britain."—The president, in calling upon the reader of the former paper, stated that, as the interesting occasion of the six hundredth anniversary of the holding of a full Parliament in November, 1295, had not been officially recognised in any other quarter, it was proposed that several papers on the subject of early parliamentary history should form part of the literary programme of the present session.—Mr. L. Owen Pike and Mr. J. P. Wallis took part in the discussion.

FINE ART.

THE LAND OF BASHAN.

An Account of Palmyra and Zenobia, with Travels and Adventures in Bashan and the Desert. By Dr. William Wright. (Nelson.)

A Visit to Bashan and Argob. By Major Heber-Percy. (Religious Tract Society.)

DR. WRIGHT has given us a delightful book. The history of his travels and adventures would be sufficient by themselves to make its fortune; but he has added to them a history of Palmyra, and above all of its great queen, which is sparklingly vivid and interesting. For the archaeologist, moreover, the book is of considerable value, as its author explored Palmyra with ladders and spades, thoroughly examining the "tomb-towers" that exist there, and disinterring the heads of statues and other relics of antiquity from the mounds of the old city.

In his exploration of Palmyra and Bashan Dr. Wright enjoyed special advantages. He can speak Arabic like a native, and therefore needed no interpreter between himself and the people. He knew their ways, and could enter into their modes of thought, and thus saved himself and his companions more than once from the bloodshed and danger of a Beduin attack. The story of how he escaped being stripped by two marauders of the desert, and how he transformed one of them into a future friend and an honest man, must be read in his own words. It has an interest even for the "Hittologist," as the converted robber had much to do in after days with Dr. Wight's success in getting casts of the famous Hamathite inscriptions.

The book is profusely illustrated, chiefly from recently taken photographs; and for the study of the ruined monuments of Palmyra and Bashan the illustrations are of great importance. In fact, no trouble

has been spared to make the volume worthy of its contents. Paper and print are alike sumptuous, and there is a most excellent index at the end. Moreover, Dr. Wright is a scholar who combines a knowledge of the Semitic languages with that of the classical tongues. His references, therefore, to Greek, Latin and Palmyrene inscriptions are as trustworthy as his lists of modern Arabic geographical names.

Dr. Wright's travels and researches were made more than twenty years ago. It was in 1872 that his first expedition to Palmyra took place, two years later that his second was undertaken. But, as he remarks in his preface, "the East moves slowly." The difference, accordingly, is not great between the Bashan that he visited and the Bashan which Major Heber-Percy saw a year ago. The difference was rather in the travellers themselves. Dr. Wright was a missionary, well-versed in the language of the country, and already acquainted with many of the Druse Sheikhs, while Major Heber-Percy had to employ a dragoman, and travelled with his wife and family. Mrs. Heber-Percy enjoys the distinction of being the first European lady who has ventured into the volcanic wilds of Bashan, undeterred by the fear of the Beduin who infest certain parts of the district.

Major Heber-Percy did not neglect his archaeological opportunities, and succeeded in finding some new Greek inscriptions, and in photographing architectural and other antiquities. In fact, his book is enriched with a series of charming photographs which will give it a permanent value. Like previous explorers, however, he discovered nothing which can claim to be older than the Graeco-Roman period; of earlier monuments above ground there seems to be no trace. Nevertheless, it is certain that such must once have existed, and excavation will doubtless bring some of them to light. Og, king of Bashan, was slain by the Israelitish invaders of Canaan, and in the days of the Tel el-Amarna correspondence "the field of Bashan" was an Egyptian province. Indeed, Bosra, of which Major Heber-Percy gives us several illustrations, is mentioned in one of the tablets under the name of Buzruna.

But before this outlying district of the Turkish empire can be thoroughly examined, it is needful that there should be a better and stronger government than that of the Porte, and that those hopeless pests of humanity—the Beduin—should be cleared out of the way. Both Dr. Wright and Major Heber-Percy agree in the descriptions they give of the treacherous and cowardly robber hordes of the desert, who make the life of the agriculturist more and more impossible on the eastern side of the Jordan; and they also agree in the excellent character they assign to the Druses, of whom, indeed, Major Heber-Percy speaks in the warmest terms. It must be remembered, however, that the English travellers saw the Druse on his most favourable side; as the Major's Maronite dragoman told him: "The Druses are very fond of the Ingleez, but very bad to everyone else."

A. H. SAYCE.

NEW LITHOGRAPHS.

MR. DUNTHORNE has brought together, at his rooms in Vigo-street, a collection of lithographs most of them executed lately, in easy and immediate response to the invitation to contribute to the Paris show of lithographs, held in celebration of the centenary of the invention of the lithographic process. And Mr. Goulding, the famous printer of etchings, has printed most of these, or, at the least, has supervised their printing; and the result is said to offer certain novelties, perceptible, probably, to the especial student of the craft. But there are a certain number of lithographs at Mr. Dunthorne's which were not executed under these conditions, and which, to boot, have been drawn straight on the stone, and not on transfer-paper. Mr. C. H. Shannon's, for instance, have been done not exactly lately, but any time during the last few years; and they are printed by himself, and he attaches importance to that circumstance, as well as to the fact that they are drawn on the stone direct. And certainly Mr. C. H. Shannon, more than most men now living, understands the conditions proper to lithography, and what order of performances come best within the scope of the process. While never, as I hope, altogether failing to appreciate him, I have not always been in thorough sympathy with his art—what seem to be occasional deficiencies or carelessnesses in actual draughtsmanship have interfered at times with the complete reception of his work—but more prolonged acquaintance brings strongly into view the qualities that he possesses, and their importance, and their charm. Indeed, no one can look long upon such pieces as "The Ruffled Sen," with all its *amorini*, and the "Ministrants" without perceiving that there is here the presence of an agreeable master of design, and of an absolute expert in the technique of his particular craft. A living Frenchman, too—Odillon Redon, of whom much mention is made in that singular fiction of M. Huysman *à Rebours*—finds some, but not, it is asserted, adequate representation in the three remarkable prints which have been lent to Mr. Dunthorne, and which express with more technical skill, we think, than absolute lucidity the baffling and unearthly conceptions of an artist of peculiar, even of abnormal, individuality.

Passing in very brief review some at least of the prints which have been lately wrought, let it be said, roughly, that the successes are those generally of the younger and less celebrated artists. The only drawing Sir Frederic Leighton has ever done for the stone does him certainly no discredit, and Mr. Watts has a young woman's head that is indicated with something of his characteristic charm. Mr. Macbeth, albeit quite clever, does not always rise above the commonplace; yet his lamplight subject is an interior skilfully indicated. Mr. Sargent is strong, but wholly unattractive—I had almost said undesirable; nor is there about the examples of Mr. Alma Tadema such fascination as many have found in his painted pictures. On the other hand, among folk less famous, Mr. Jacob Hood has an idyl, which is skilful and charming—the vision of a classic or arcadian *pas de quatre*. Mr. Corbet has an interesting, since finely modelled, study from the nude. Mr. Watson—never putting into his theme much of expansive individuality—yet succeeds through a certain proficiency of technique. Mr. Frank Short, not alone in "Timber Ships at Great Yarmouth"—though that is charming enough to do him credit—proves how a skilled master of the greater arts of etching and of mezzotint can turn with sympathy and utmost intelligence to temporary practice in a new and humbler medium. And Mr. Oliver Hall, not succeeding with everything—leaving, as I consider, something to be desired in the sky of his otherwise engaging "Wensleydale"—works with

utmost strength and utmost delicacy in the lithograph that he entitles "The Edge of the Moor." Some of Mr. Rothenstein's able and sometimes piquant performances might possibly have been shown with advantage, and, also, a lithograph of Mr. Joseph Pennell's which I happen to have lately seen—"St. Paul's and the Roofs of the City," the upper part in light; the lower in deep shadow. It is more personal than most of Mr. Pennell's etched work or pen draughtsmanship appears to me to be, and is, indeed, excellent. But these things have been printed not by the energetic and experimental printer who has of late addressed himself so much to essays in lithography, but by Mr. Way, who has printed always, I believe, for Mr. Whistler, and has possessed the traditions, and faithfully carried them out, for more than a generation.

FREDERICK WEDMORE.

NOTES ON ART AND ARCHAEOLOGY.

THE annual distribution of prizes to the students of the Royal Academy Schools will take place at Burlington House, on Tuesday next, at 8 p.m.; but we regret to add in the absence of the President, whose inspiring addresses have formed such a notable feature of the ceremony. The galleries containing the competition works will, as usual, be open to the public on the two following days.

THE Grafton Galleries will reopen in January with an exhibition selected from one of the finest private collections, mainly representing the Barbizon school. This will last till April, and will be followed in May by another exhibition of everything of interest bearing on and illustrative of the arts of music and the drama.

THE much-talked-of exhibition of Mr. Whistler's lithographs will open next week at the Fine Art Society's Gallery in New Bond-street.

HOGARTH'S "Calais Gate," which was presented by the Duke of Westminster to the National Gallery in July, is now hung in the gallery in Room XVII. Until recently the picture has been on exhibition at Chester.

OWING, in part, to the fire at the printers (Messrs. Unwin Bros.), the publication of Mr. Pennell's new work, on *The Illustration of Books*, is postponed till the Spring. The author will take advantage of the occasion to make various revisions.

SIR FREDERIC LEIGHTON'S award, in the statuette competition for a prize of £150 instituted by the Art Union of London, is given to a model statuette, representing "Hero," by Miss Margaret Giles.

WE have received, as a pre-print from the *American Journal of Archaeology*, a paper written by Mr. Edward Capps, of the American School at Athens, dealing with that vexed question, the Greek stage, from the point of view of the chorus in the later drama. The following is the author's own summary of his arguments:

"The theory that at the end of the fourth century the actors were elevated from their former position to a stage ten or twelve feet high is untenable, because (1) the chorus in tragedy, though perhaps less correctly handled by the later poets as regards its connexion with the plot, was still regularly brought into close contact with the actors down to at least the end of the Roman republic; (2) the satyr-drama, with its chorus, flourished still in Roman times; (3) the chorus in comedy continued into the third century, meanwhile containing its connexion with the action; the intimate relation of the chorus to the action in the old tragedies of the fifth century was not changed in later reproductions. The continuance for the longest time of the external functions of

the chorus was perfectly natural. The principal cost of the old chorus was in the training for the orchestral and melic parts. The least expensive and the most practically dramatic function was the last to be given up. The erection of the low stage of Nero in the theatre at Athens was the first outward sign of the diminution of the chorus in one of its functions. From that time on it took its position on the stage as in the Roman theatre. Up to that time it had occupied the level of the orchestra with the actors."

THE STAGE.

"LE FILS DE L'ARÉTIN."

M. HENRI DE BORNIER'S drama in verse produced last week at the Théâtre Français is a work of very unequal merit. It would, perhaps, be unfair to say that it won only a *succès d'estime*, but I do not think it is likely to attain anything like the popularity of the author's previous play, "La Fille de Roland."

Nevertheless, the first act, so full of life and picturesque details of dress and scenery, gave fair promise of success. The scene is laid at Brescia, in the palace of Pietro Aretino; and a murmur of half suppressed admiration greeted the appearance of M. Mounet-Sully, splendidly attired and of noble bearing, in the title-part. Aretino is at the zenith of his power, surrounded by a court of minor poets, authors, artists, and sycophants. Dallying with two fair and frail damsels, he listens as his secretaries read to him messages from the Pope, the Emperor, and other princes; he is feared and hated by one and all, but more particularly by Franco, his private secretary and confidant. A herald announces the arrival of an envoy from Francis, King of France, bearing costly presents and an autograph letter addressed to the "divine Aretino." The presents he accepts with haughty indifference; but just when the envoy is handing him the King's letter, who should step forward and snatch it out of his hand but—the Chevalier Bayard! an unexpected *coup de théâtre* which took the audience by surprise. Then in a long tirade, the Chevalier brands Aretino as a literary scoundrel (some of his remarks are singularly appropriate to certain *littérateurs pornographiques* of the present day), and tears the royal missive to pieces, rather than allow the fair fame of his master to be sullied by the friendship of a corrupt scribbler of licentious sonnets. Pietro, wild with rage, vows vengeance against the Chevalier; but his anger is suddenly appeased by the entrance of Angela (Mlle. Dudlay), the long lost and pure love of his youth. The lady, who is accompanied by a little boy, proceeds to unfold a strange story. The child Orfinio is the offspring of Aretino and Camilla, a courtesan. Angela found the child abandoned in the streets; she has brought him up as her own son, and now, in the name of sweet innocence and in memory of past love, she implores Aretino to abandon his evil ways. The curtain falls on the very sudden repentance of the prince.

Ten years have elapsed between the first and second acts. Aretino is leading an exemplary life, writing commentaries on the Scriptures. Orfinio (M. le Bargy), now an officer in the service of the Venetian Republic, is loved by the gentle Stellina (Mlle. Reichemberg), and watched over by his step-mother, Angela. But their quiet life is suddenly disturbed by the arrival of Camilla (Mme. Pierson), who has inherited a large fortune and comes to claim her son, who is only too ready to follow her, as his mind has been corrupted by the perusal of a volume of Aretino's early poems, secretly given to him by Franco. Thus the sins of the father are visited on the child. The hereditary germ of evil ferments in Orfinio: he reviles his father,

insults Angela, tries to ruin Stellina, and, lastly, falls an easy prey to vice :

"Je suis né pour souffrir, et pour faire souffrir." These incidents give rise to several highly dramatic scenes, but the frequent inconsistency of events and characters mars the general effect of the play.

In the fourth act we learn that Orfinio, notwithstanding his riotous life, is a brave officer and has defeated an attack of the Turks on Venice. He is the hero of the day; but, burdened with heavy debts and on the brink of ruin, he listens to the perfidious advice of Franco, who promises him a large sum if he will betray the Republic. Aretino overhears Franco's proposals, and, attended by Angela and Stellina, implores Orfinio not to turn traitor; but the latter replies :

"Je n'aime rien au monde et ne veut aimer rien. L'amour pour une fois qu'est tombé de ma bouche Son nom, m'a rendu l'âme indomptable et farouche. La souffrance est le droit de haïr et je haïs ! Et je n'aime ici bas que le mal que je fais ! Je haïs le dieu qui fit de nous ce que nous sommes, Tous ceux qui sont heureux sur la terre des hommes,

Ce qu'on appelle honneur, gloire, courage, foi. Vous parlez de patrie ! Eh ! que m'importe, à moi !"

whereupon Aretino stabs him to the heart. "I have murdered my son!" he exclaims, while Orfinio murmurs, "No, father, you have saved him."

Thus ends the strange imbroglia imagined by M. de Bornier. The play is "paved with good intentions," which, together with fine acting and a brilliant *mise-en-scène*, may contribute to its success with the general public.

CECIL NICHOLSON.

MUSIC.

RECENT CONCERTS.

PIANISTS do not always choose their pieces well. Pachmann once thought—and may, indeed, still be of the same opinion—that his speciality was Beethoven, whereas it was undoubtedly Chopin. Rubinstein was, quite exceptionally, an all-round player. He could rise to the height of his argument when interpreting one of Beethoven's great Sonatas; he could do justice to Schumann and also to Chopin; he could play Weber's music with fire and

brilliance, and yet reveal all its tenderness and romance. At other times he would merely display his great powers as an executant in pieces written for that purpose. As a composer he had probably a deeper insight into the works of the great masters than either of the two great pianists, Reisenauer and Rosenthal, who are now attracting public attention. This, at least, is our opinion, so far as we have heard them; and, as regards the reception given to their various performances, the public seem to be much of the same mind. Reisenauer can play with great charm and refinement, but somehow or other a touch of virtuosity here and there breaks the spell. His rendering of the Beethoven Sonata in C sharp minor the other day was a case in point: the promise excited by the Adagio was not fulfilled in the Presto; pianism

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gained the upper hand of poetry. In Liszt's music Reisenauer excels; and he chose one of his late master's works, the Concerto in A, for his first appearance at the Crystal Palace on Saturday. It was a brilliant performance. But why, one may ask, did he select that particular work? The Concerto in E flat is brilliant and effective; the one in A is as ugly as it is difficult.

Last Friday week Mlle. Irma Sethe gave what she was pleased to call a "violin recital"; but it was one of a very mixed kind. Together with Reisenauer the concert-giver played two Sonatas—the one in F (Op. 24), by Beethoven, the other, also in F (Op. 8), by Grieg. The classic calm of the former, the modern excitement of a great portion of the latter, offered excellent contrast, though the identity of key to some extent proved a drawback. Both works are, however, interesting, and by no means hackneyed. Mlle. Sethe played charmingly, and showed no tendency, as at her first recital, to hurry. She was admirably supported by the pianist, who throughout tempered his playing to that of his fair partner. Of the two Sonatas the second went still better than the first. Altogether Mlle. Sethe made a most favourable impression. She was heard also, and to advantage, in a Bach Sarabande; but a young artist cannot do full justice to that master. At the end of the programme was marked a "Paraphrase de Parsifal" by Wagner-Wilhelmj. All the old masters have suffered more or less at the hands of transcribers, and Wagner is now treated in like manner. There are transcriptions for pianoforte of the "Fire" music and of the Walkürenritt, to say nothing of portions of the "Flying Dutchman," "Tannhäuser," "Lohengrin." Liszt, we believe, was the first to yield to the temptation;

but his were arrangements from operas. To paraphrase "Parsifal" is no less than a crime of *lèse majesté*. We do not so much blame Mlle. Sethe as those who taught her such a piece.

Señor Sarasate gave his third concert at St. James's Hall on Monday afternoon. With Mme. Berthe Goldschmidt, he played Brahms' Sonata for violin and pianoforte in G (Op. 78). Already on a previous occasion we spoke of the interpretation of the work by these two artists. In many points it is admirable. The technique is beyond reproach, and there is no lack of intelligence and feeling; yet the reading is not in the true Brahms style: there is sweetness, elegance, at the expense of virility. The slow movement was the most successful; the purity of the violinist's tone was delightful. The programme included Beethoven's "Kreutzer" Sonata. The more serious character which the programmes of Señor Sarasate have assumed of late deserves full recognition.

Of this concert we cannot speak further, as we went to hear Herr A. Stradhal at the Steinway Hall. He is a pianist, who for a time studied under Liszt. His performance of two of the "Paganini" Etudes proved that he can successfully interpret those clever and abnormally difficult pieces of Liszt; his technique is, indeed, of a high order. We also heard two pieces by Chopin—the B flat minor Nocturne and the Funeral March; the former lacked delicacy (the very title of Nocturne ought to suggest dreamy playing), and the latter was rendered in sensational and exaggerated style. On the programme was a song by "Lios," the *nom de guerre* of the Countess d'Erdödy, daughter of Beethoven's friend.

J. S. SHEDLOCK.

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